Jo Becker

Advocacy Director, Children's Rights Division

Jo Becker is the advocacy director of the Children's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch. As the founding chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, she helped campaign successfully for an international treaty banning the forced recruitment of children under age eighteen or their use in armed conflict. She has conducted field investigations on children's rights in Burma, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the United States. Based on her expertise on the issue of child soldiers, she has addressed the United Nations Security Council, testified before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, conducted trainings for international military officers, and testified as an expert in a Dutch war crimes trial. She is also an adjunct associate professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University, and the award-winning author of two books: Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice (Stanford University Press, 2013) and Campaigning for Children: Strategies to Advance Children's Rights (Stanford University Press, 2017).